

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15. Canceled.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of printing a digital document comprising: providing a first document for printing, the first document comprising at least one functional area wherein ~~in which~~ pattern markings are to be printed, generating from the first document a second document wherein ~~in which~~ at least one of the shape ~~and or size and~~ or location of the at least one functional area is modified, obtaining a portion of pattern to fit the modified functional area; and printing the second document.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein ~~in which~~ the first document includes some content.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~in which~~ the step of modifying the document ~~and/or or~~ obtaining the portion of pattern for the functional area is performed by a print application ~~such as a printer driver~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein ~~in which~~ the printer driver presents to a user one or more prompts for the user to modify the first document.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein ~~in which~~ the step of modifying the document ~~and/or or~~ obtaining the portion of pattern for the functional area is performed by a print application ~~such as a printer driver~~.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein ~~in which~~ the step of obtaining the portion of pattern for the functional area includes a step of requesting a portion of pattern for the functional area from a pattern allocation device.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein ~~in which~~ the amount of pattern requested and the identity of the portion of pattern (its location in a pattern space) is determined according to the size of the modified functional area.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 wherein ~~in which~~ the step of requesting a portion of pattern comprises requesting an area of pattern larger than that which is required for a functional area of a document and allocating a sub-portion to the functional area according to how ~~[[it]]~~ the functional area has been modified.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein ~~in which~~ the step of requesting a portion of pattern comprises requesting an area of pattern larger than that which is required for a functional area of a document and allocating a sub-portion to the functional area according to how ~~[[it]]~~ the functional area has been modified.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein ~~in which~~ the step of modifying the functional area comprises ~~increasing its size, varying its aspect ratio or rotating the area relative to the remainder of the document.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A digital document printing apparatus comprising:
a print application which receives a first document for printing, the first document comprising at least one functional area wherein ~~in which~~ pattern markings are to be printed,
a document generating means configured ~~arranged~~ to generate from the first document a second document wherein ~~in which~~ at least one of the shape ~~and or size and~~ or location of the at least one functional area is modified, and
a pattern allocation unit which is arranged to allocate a portion of pattern to fit the modified functional area at the request of the print application ~~in which~~ wherein the print application allocates pattern to the functional area according to ~~[[its]]~~ the functional area's shape ~~[[and]]~~ or location ~~and or size after modification.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein ~~in which~~ the print application is arranged to generate a print file which comprises a set of instructions ~~in a language which can be understood by a printing device.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 further comprising which ~~includes a printer which is adapted~~ configured to print the second document together with the pattern markings.

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein in which the pattern allocation unit allocates a portion of pattern that is larger than that which is the required for a functional area and the print application allocates a sub-portion of ~~[[this]]~~ the portion of the pattern to the functional area space.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein in which the pattern allocation unit allocates a portion of pattern that is larger than that which is the required for a functional area and the print application allocates a sub-portion of ~~[[this]]~~ the portion of the pattern to the functional area space.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein in which the pattern allocation unit stores a set of identifiers which uniquely identify ~~identifies~~ each of a set of first documents and allocates a unique portion of pattern to each document.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein in which the pattern allocation unit stores a set of identifiers which uniquely identify ~~identifies~~ each of a set of first documents and allocates a unique portion of pattern to each document.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein in which the pattern allocation unit stores a set of identifiers which uniquely identify ~~identifies~~ each of a set of first documents and allocates a unique portion of pattern to each document.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein in which the pattern allocation unit stores a set of identifiers which uniquely identify ~~identifies~~ each of a set of first documents and allocates a unique portion of pattern to each document.

35. (Currently Amended) A ~~computer program~~ computer-readable medium with program code embodied therein for causing when executed, a computer system, to perform a method of which is arranged to:

~~receive~~ receiving a first document for printing, the first document comprising at least one functional area wherein ~~in which~~ pattern markings are to be printed,

~~generate~~ generating from the first document a second document wherein ~~in which~~ at least one of the shape ~~and or size and~~ or location of the at least one functional area is modified, and

~~request~~ requesting a portion of pattern to fit the modified functional area from a source of pattern ~~[[,]]~~ ; and

~~the program~~ allocating the portion of pattern to the functional area according to ~~[[its]]~~ the functional area's shape ~~[[and]]~~ or location ~~and or size after modification.~~